REMARKS

Claims 1–22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15 and 18-22 are rejected in the present Office Action. Claims 16-17 are objected to and have been amended to overcome the objections. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to include the Serial Number and filing date of the application incorporated by reference. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1-15 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,247 to Wilford (hereinafter "Wilford"). Claims 1, 13 and 20 have been amended in this Response. Independent claim 1 has been amended to specify that an embodiment of the invention provides a system for providing a service to a packet-based network, wherein the network comprises first and second data structures and wherein a processor is operable to use a longest-match value from said first data structure and a first match value from said second data structure to determine a service for a packet.

Wilford does not disclose the limitations recited in independent claim 1, as amended. Wilford discloses an apparatus for routing packets in a communications network wherein a first data structure is used to determine a service for a packet, e.g., forwarding a packet, and a second data structure is used to provide details for implementing the service, e.g., choosing a preferred link for forwarding the packet. In Wilford, the second data structure comprises adjacency table lookup logic described in the Wilford specification, *inter alia*, beginning in column 26, line 41, and continuing to column 27 line 2. The adjacency table disclosed in Wilford does not contribute data used to <u>determine</u> the <u>service provided to a packet</u> as recited in independent claim 1, as amended.

Independent claim 13, as amended, recites a method for servicing packets transmitted across a network. The packet are classified by using a data structure to match one or more packet field values and by dynamically creating a new packet classification by modifying the

data structure to associate one or more of the predetermined packet field values with the new packet classification. The new packet classification is then used to select a service for said packet. Independent claim 20 recites similar limitations for a system for servicing packets. The Wilford reference does not disclose the use of a new or modified packet classification in the selection of a packet service, as recited in independent claims 13 and 20. Instead, as discussed above, the second data structure provides new or modified packet classifications that are used to refine the implementation for a service that has already been selected for a packet.

Applicants respectfully submit that Wilford does not anticipate independent claims 1, 13, and 20, as amended. Therefore the rejection of these independent claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be removed.

For the reasons set forth above, independent claims 1, 13, and 20 are allowable over the art of record. Furthermore, dependent claims 2-12, 14-19 and 21-22 are allowable as being dependent on allowable base claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

AUGUST 2, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

/Gary W. Hamilton/

Gary W. Hamilton
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 31,834